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## Summary and Introduction

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### Caseload Reports and Case Type Descriptions

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Each quarter, Indiana's trial courts provide caseload information to the Division by filing a Quarterly Case Status Report ("QCSR"). This report contains summary information, by case type, on the number of cases filed and pending, the movement of cases between courts via transfer or venue, and the method by which a case was disposed during a reporting period. In addition to the cases that are being handled by a specific court, the Quarterly Case Status Report tracks the amount of judicial resources available to a court and the time that a judge spends hearing cases in another court.

The QCSR also captures other case-related information that can be used to administer and improve court projects and initiatives. For example, data is collected tracking the number of cases referred to alternative dispute resolution or for which pauper counsel was appointed, the number of cases that required the service of a court interpreter and the number of juvenile cases in which a guardian ad litem/court appointed special advocate was appointed.

Case information is categorized by case type using the classification code outlined in Indiana Administrative Rule 8(B)(3). Currently, criminal cases are divided into ten categories, juvenile cases into six categories, civil cases into ten categories, and probate/adoption cases into five categories of case type. In addition to these case types, an administrative case type called "court business record" was added effective

January 1, 2005. Case type designations and categories are as follows:

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#### Criminal Case Types

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If a defendant is charged with multiple offenses, the case is counted only one time under the most serious charge. Even if the criminal offense charged later changes, for administrative purposes, a case continues to be counted under its initial case designation in the statistical reports.

**1. MR - Murder:** All murder cases filed on or after 1/1/2002 are filed under this category. If the State seeks either the death penalty or life without parole, that information is reported in Part IV of the Quarterly Case Status Report.

**2. CF - Criminal Felony:** This category includes all cases filed prior to 1/1/2002 as Murder or Class A, B, and C felonies. Although no new filings are permitted for this category, existing cases with a CF designation are still disposed in this category.

**3. FA - Class A Felony:** All A felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples include kidnapping, voluntary manslaughter with a deadly weapon, and arson involving bodily injury.

**4. FB - Class B Felony:** All B felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include aggravated battery, rape, child

molesting, carjacking, and armed robbery.

**5. FC - Class C Felony:** All C felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include involuntary manslaughter, robbery, burglary, and reckless homicide.

**6. DF - Class D Felony:** All D felonies filed before 1/1/2002. In 1995, courts began counting and reporting Class D felonies separately. Examples of crimes in this category include theft, computer tampering, and fraud.

**7. FD - Class D Felony:** All D felonies filed on or after 1/1/2002. Examples of crimes in this category include theft, receiving stolen property, computer tampering, and fraud.

**8. CM - Criminal Misdemeanor:** This category includes all criminal cases filed as misdemeanors. Examples of crimes in this category are criminal trespass, check deception, harassment, and battery.

**9. PC - Post-Conviction Petition:** This category includes all petitions for post-conviction relief filed under Post-Conviction Rule 1.

**10. MC - Miscellaneous Criminal:** This category includes all criminal matters which are not easily classified as felony or misdemeanor and which are not part of an ongoing proceeding. An example of a case falling into this category would be a probable cause hearing in a case not yet filed. When a search warrant is issued before charges are filed, a MC case number is assigned for the search

warrant and should be disposed of via a bench disposition. If charges are pressed, then a case in the appropriate category should be filed.

**11. IF - Infractions:** Although infractions are technically non-criminal in nature, infractions are reported in the criminal category for the purposes of this report. Infractions are typically traffic-related offenses. Similar to other criminal cases and ordinance violations, multiple offenses (i.e., multiple tickets or citations issued to the same individual or arising from the same circumstances) result in only one case filing.

**12. OV/OE: Ordinance Violations:** These involve local ordinance violations. If an ordinance violation must be enforced through court proceedings, it is given an OV case type. If found to have violated the ordinance, the violator will be assessed the filing fee. Moving traffic violations must be enforced through a court proceeding. A municipal corporation may enforce many ordinance violations, however, without proceeding in court.

The municipal corporation may enforce other ordinances (exempt ordinances) by establishing a violations clerk who accepts the admissions of violation and payment of civil penalties. In the event a violator chooses to challenge an otherwise exempt ordinance, the case is given case type OE and no filing fee is assessed, even if the violator is ultimately unsuccessful.

### **Juvenile Case Types**

**1. JC - Juvenile CHINS:** This category reflects those cases before the court where a child is alleged to be a child in need of services as defined by I.C. § 31-34-1-1 *et. seq.* The case is

counted as a new filing when a petition for detention hearing or when a request for authority to file a petition alleging that a child is in need of services is filed. Each child should be given a separate case number.

## **2. JD - Juvenile Delinquency:**

Cases in which a child is alleged to be a delinquent are filed in this category. I.C. § 31-37-1-2 defines a delinquent act as one that is committed by a child before becoming eighteen (18) years of age and that would be an offense if committed by an adult. The case is recorded as a new filing when a petition for detention hearing or a petition alleging delinquency is filed.

**3. JS - Juvenile Status:** Cases in which a child is charged with committing an offense which would not be a crime if committed by an adult are filed in this category. Examples include curfew violations and underage alcohol purchase or consumption.

**4. JP - Juvenile Paternity:** This includes paternity actions filed by any of the parties specified by statute, including the prosecutor. (I. C. § 31-14-4-1 identifies who may file paternity actions.) A support action pursuant to a paternity affidavit would receive a JP classification.

**5. JT - Termination of Parental Rights:** This category includes all proceedings for termination of parental rights.

**6. JM - Juvenile Miscellaneous:** This category applies to juvenile matters which are not specifically listed in the previous juvenile case type categories.

One example is the approval by the court of an informal adjustment.

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## **Civil Case Types**

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**1. CP - Civil Plenary:** All Civil Plenary cases filed before 1/1/2002. Although no new filings are permitted for this category, existing cases with a CP designation are still disposed in this category. Generally, this category covered cases founded in contract, actions dealing with real and personal property, and actions seeking equitable or injunctive relief.

**2. PL - Civil Plenary:** All Civil Plenary cases filed on or after 1/1/2002. Basic civil cases not otherwise specifically included as separate categories are filed with this designation. Generally, this category covers cases founded in contract, actions dealing with real and personal property, and actions seeking equitable or injunctive relief.

**3. MF - Mortgage Foreclosure:** All Mortgage Foreclosure cases filed after 1/1/2002 are reported in this category.

**4. CC - Civil Collections:** All Civil Collections filed after 1/1/2002, are reported in this category, and may include the following: proceedings supplemental as an independent action; suits on notes and accounts; general collection suits; landlord/tenant suits for collection; ejectment; and tax warrants.

**5. CT - Civil Tort:** Cases founded in tort and filed on the regular civil docket of the court are included in this category. Small claims, which also could be founded in tort, are included in a separate category.

**6. SC - Small Claims:** This category includes cases filed on the small claims docket of Circuit, Superior, or County courts, as well as cases filed in the Marion County Small Claims Court. While city and town courts may have cases that fall within the monetary limits of small claims jurisdiction, those cases are not defined as small claims by statute and must be counted as PL – Plenary or CC – Civil Collections, depending upon the nature of the action.

**7. DR - Domestic Relations:** Actions involving petitions for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and petitions to establish child support are filed in this category.

**8. RS - Reciprocal Support:** Actions for reciprocal enforcement of child support (UIFSA) and petitions for modification of support or custody and/or support under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act are counted in this category.

**9. MH - Mental Health:** Proceedings involving mental health commitments, including temporary commitments, an extension of temporary commitment, regular commitment, or termination of a commitment, are filed under this category.

**10. AD - Adoption:** Petitions for adoption are filed under this category. Additionally, on or after 1/1/2002, petitions seeking release of adoption records are filed in this category.

**11. AH - Adoption History:** All petitions seeking release of adoption records filed prior to 1/1/2002 received

this designation. Although no new filings are permitted for this category, existing cases with an AH designation are still disposed in this category

**12. ES - Estates:** This category includes both supervised and unsupervised probate of estates. Claims against the estate that are transferred for trial are listed as civil, or CT, matters.

**13. GU - Guardianship:** Petitions for appointment of guardians are filed under this category. A guardianship case is considered “closed” when the court enters an order closing the guardianship.

**14. TR - Trusts:** This category includes trust matters before the court.

**15. PO - Protective Order:** New petitions for protective orders which are not part of an ongoing process (such as a marriage dissolution) are filed in this category.

**16. MI - Civil Miscellaneous:** Routine civil matters which are not easily categorized in other areas and which are not part of any other pending litigation may be included in this category. Examples are petitions for name change, appointments of appraisers, petitions for emancipation, a proceeding to reinstate a driver’s license that has been administratively suspended, a Habeas Corpus case from DOC, and marriage waivers.

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### **Administrative Case Type**

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**1. CB - Court Business Record:** This category includes non-case specific

matters, such as the appointment of a judge pro tem or the appointment of pauper counsel, drawing the jury, adopting or amending local rules, or recording a foreign protective order.

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### **Disposition Categories**

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The Quarterly Case Status Reports also include summary dispositional information. A brief description of the disposition categories is as follows:

**1. Jury Trial:** This category reflects cases that have been decided by a jury or have gone to the jury. This type of disposition is limited to cases where the jury is seated and sworn.

**2. Bench Trial:** Cases that are disposed of by the court after a trial in which a witness is sworn. Until 1999, cases in which a trial did not take place were also counted as disposed by bench trial. After 1999, such cases have been included under “bench disposition.”

**3. Bench Disposition:** Cases that are disposed by final judicial determination of an issue, but where no witnesses are sworn and no evidence is introduced, should be counted in this category. These dispositions include decisions on motions for summary judgment, hearings on other dispositive motions, and settled cases in which the parties tender an agreed judgment to the court for approval, which can then be enforced through proceedings supplemental to execution. Approval of informal adjustments in juvenile matters and issuance of search warrants unrelated to any pending case also fall into this category. This category was

new, and voluntary, during 1999. It became mandatory beginning January 1, 2001.

**4. Dismissed:** This applies to cases which are dismissed either by the court on its own motion (Trial Rule 41(E)), upon the motion of a party, or upon an agreed entry as the result of settlement between the parties.

**5. Default:** This category is applicable only in civil cases where a default judgment is entered by the court.

**6. Guilty Plea/Admission:** Cases in which the defendant pleads guilty to an offense or admits to the commission of an infraction or ordinance violation is counted under this category. Infraction and ordinance violation cases are only reflected in this disposition category if the case actually comes before the court for decision.

**7. Violations Bureau:** This disposition category reflects infractions and ordinance violations that have been filed in the court but are handled through a violations bureau. Cases counted here include those in which a defendant makes an admission, pleads guilty, or pays a fine through the bureau, through the clerk, or through the mail.

**8. Closed:** Routine closing of an estate or adoption proceeding, as well as the routine termination of a trust or guardianship is counted in this disposition type.

**9. FTA/FTP:** This category includes ordinance violation or infraction cases in which the defendant fails to appear or fails to pay. Once counted in this category, the case is not recounted

even if the defendant later appears, pays, or proceeds to a full trial.

**10. Other:** Any case disposition that is not otherwise accounted for in the preceding categories may be included here. One example would be a case resolved by the death of the defendant.

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### **Movement of Cases**

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In addition to cases being filed and disposed, cases may be venued or transferred between courts.

**1. Venued In/Out:** Cases that have been filed in a court but are moved to another county for any reason should be listed in this category.

**2. Transferred In/Out:** Cases that are transferred from one court to another within the same county, or from one court docket to another (such as a move from small claims docket to the civil plenary docket), should be recorded here. In the event a motion for change of venue from the judge results in a transfer of the case to another court in the same county, the case should also be counted in this category.